



# Press Release

National  
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## Rice and Cotton Yields Approach State Records

“Preliminary indications from the 2011 harvest point toward a new state record of 6,400 pounds per acre for the rice yield in Louisiana, 100 pounds above the previous record which was set in 2009,” according to Nathan Crisp, Director of the Louisiana Field Office of the USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service. “Cotton yield is expected to be the second highest on record, at 926 pounds per acre, only 91 pounds below the state record of 1,017 pounds set in 2007,” Crisp added.

Louisiana **rice** production is forecast at 26.9 million cwt, up four percent from the previous month but down 18 percent from 2010. Rice harvested acreage was revised to 420,000 acres, up 5,000 acres from the June acreage estimate. Yield per acre is forecast at 6,400 pounds, up 200 pounds from the previous month and up 300 pounds from last year. If realized, this will be the highest yield on record for the state. U.S. **rice** production is forecast at 191 million cwt, up one percent from the August estimate but down 21 percent from last year.

Louisiana’s **cotton** production is expected to total 550,000 bales, up 22 percent from the August estimate and up 26 percent from last year. Acreage of cotton expected for harvest was revised to 285,000 acres, up 15,000 acres from the June acreage estimate. The expected yield per acre, at 926 pounds, is up 126 pounds from the August estimate and up 84 pounds from 2010. U.S. **upland cotton** production is forecast at 15.8 million 480-pound bales, up fractionally from last month but down ten percent from last year.

Louisiana’s **corn** production is forecast at 71.5 million bushels, unchanged from the previous month’s estimate but up two percent from last year. An estimated 550,000 acres will be harvested for grain, up 50,000 acres from a year ago. Yield per acre, at 130 bushels, is unchanged from last month but down ten bushels from last year’s yield. U.S. **corn** production is forecast at 12.5 billion bushels, down three percent from last month but up fractionally from 2010. If realized, this will be the third largest production total on record for the United States.

**Soybean** production is expected to total 35 million bushels in Louisiana, unchanged from the August estimate but down 16 percent from 2010. An estimated one million acres will be harvested, down 20,000 acres from 2010. Yield is forecast at 35 bushels per acre, unchanged from the previous month but down six bushels from last year. U.S. **soybean** production is forecast at 3.1 billion bushels, up one percent from the August estimate but down seven percent from last year.

**Sorghum** production is estimated at 12.6 million bushels in the state, up one percent from the August estimate and up 69 percent from 2010. Acreage to be harvested for grain is forecast at 155,000 acres, up 77,000 acres from last year. Yield is forecast at 81 bushels per acre, up one bushel from last month but down 14 bushels from a year ago. U.S. **sorghum** production is forecast at 244 million bushels, up one percent from last month but down 29 percent from last year.

The Louisiana **sugarcane** crop is estimated at 11.8 million net tons, unchanged from the previous month but up one percent from last year. Harvested acreage for sugar and seed is forecast at 420,000 acres, unchanged from last year. Yield is forecast at 28 net tons per acre, unchanged from the August estimate but up 0.2 ton from last year. U.S. **sugarcane** production for sugar and seed in 2011 is forecast at 28.6 million net tons, down fractionally from the August estimate but up five percent from 2010.